

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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P 080051Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090519

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:EFIS, RO

SUBJECT:MEETING OF DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND ROMANIAN
AMBASSADOR ON FISHERIES ISSUE

REF: A) STATE 031774 B) STATE 300600

COPENHAGEN FOR FISHATT

1. ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR NICOLAE MET APRIL 6 WITH OFA DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEGROPONTE TO AGAIN DISCUSS QUESTION
OF ZERO ROMANIAN FISHERY ALLOCATION FOR 1978. NICOLAE HAD
PREVIOUSLY MET WITH DEPUTY ASST. SECY.LUERS (REF A) AND
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ASST. SECY. PATSY T. MINK TO RAISE SAME ISSUE. FOLLOWING
NICOLAE/MINK MEETING, DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF FISHERY AFFAIRS
AND NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (DOC) UNDERTOOK
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF FISHERY ALLOCATION PROCEDURES
TO AGAIN EXAMINE THE POLICY FOR LOGIC AND CONSISTENCY.
RESULT WAS DECISION THAT NO APPROACH OTHER THAN THE
HISTORICAL FISHERY/SPECIES CRITERIA USED BY THE CONCERNED

USG AGENCIES WOULD BE REASONABLE OR DEFENSIBLE, AND THAT TO MAKE OR ALTER ALLOCATIONS ON BASIS OF POLITICAL FACTORS OR PERSISTENCE OF COMPLAINTS WOULD LIKELY CAUSE US FAR MORE PROBLEMS IN THE LONG RUN.

2. DECISION WAS CONVEYED TO NICOLAE, WHO AGAIN EXPRESSED

STRONG DISPLEASURE OF GOR, AND SUGGESTED THAT FISHERIES ISSUE WOULD BE RAISED DURING CEAUSESCU VISIT. NICOLAE MADE IT CLEAR THAT ROMANIANS CONSIDER FISHERY ALLOCATIONS TO BE A POLITICAL ISSUE. NEGROPONTE EMPHASIZED THAT THE USG DOES NOT VIEW ALLOCATIONS AS POLITICAL MATTER AND THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ROMANIA. IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE FOR ROMANIA THAT ITS HISTORIC FISHERY OFF U.S. COAST, MACKEREL, HAD TO BE SHUT DOWN FOR ALL FOREIGNERS FOR CONSERVATION REASONS. EVEN IN THE CASE OF OUR COMMON MARKET ALLIES (E.G. WEST GERMANY, WHICH LOST ITS HERRING FISHERY) WE WERE UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE ALLOCATION REQUESTS DUE TO ABSENCE OF RESOURCES TO ALLOCATE.

3. FYI. WE DO NOT THINK IT LIKELY THAT CEAUSESCU WILL RAISE FISHERIES PROBLEM WITH PRESIDENT, BUT THERE IS GOOD CHANCE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI WILL BRING IT UP WITH SECRETARY, WHO HAS JUST AGREED TO MEET WITH ANDREI ON APRIL 12 AT 4:00. THE SECRETARY HAS PREVIOUSLY FIELDDED
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FISHERY COMPLAINTS FROM POLES, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WARSAW, AND WILL BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ROMAINIAN COMPLAINT. VANCE

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